

# Spanish Borrowings in Miami-based Newspapers: A Case Study

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# Project: *Hispanisms in American English*

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- Extraction of standard Spanish-induced lemmas
- Elaboration of corpora (written and oral texts)
- Classification of loanwords according to regional and sociolinguistic cues.



“Margaret Fuller” grant: *The Hispanization of Miami-based English*

# Outline

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- Introduction
- Miami-Dade: Some Sociolinguistic Cues
- Methodology
- Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings
- Conclusions
- References

# Introduction

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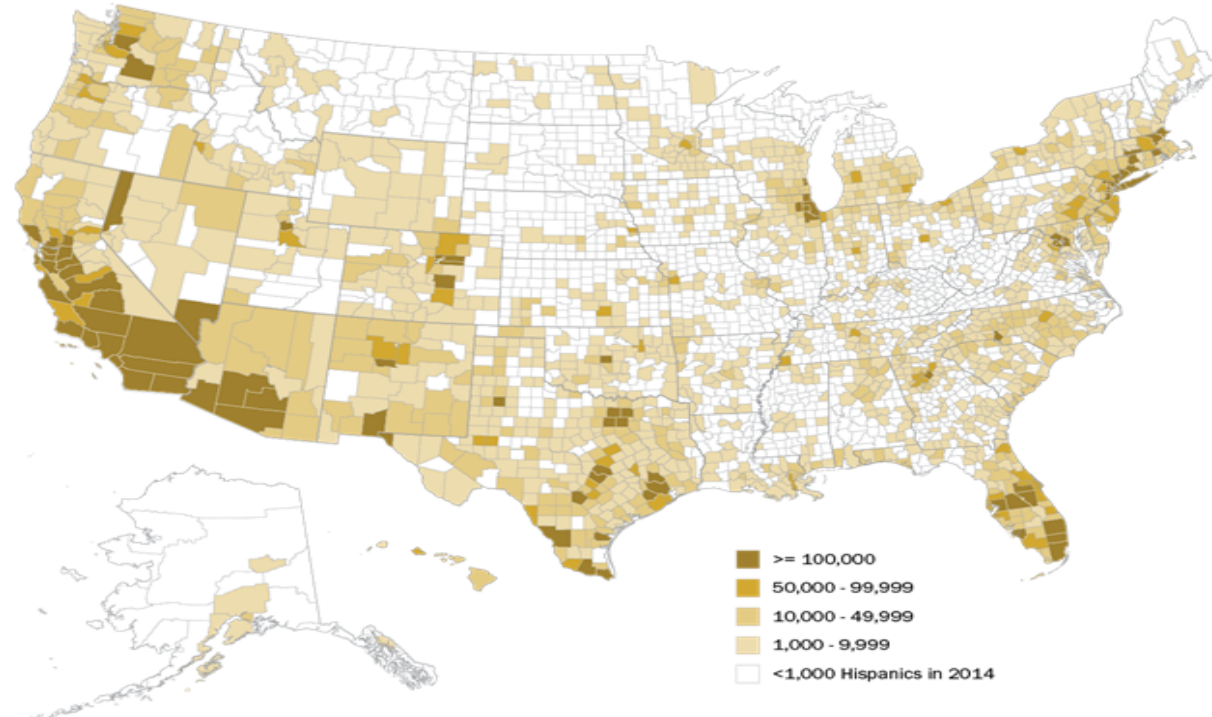
## Aims:

- To **collect** Spanish-induced lexical units in Miami English through the revision of local online newspapers and magazines (*The Miami Herald, Miami New Times, Miami Today News*).
- To **classify** the 'direct' hispanisms: word class, variations, word-building mechanisms, typographic traits, standardized or accepted borrowing (*avocado* vs *abuela*).

# Miami-Dade: where Latinos meet...

**Nearly all Latinos lived in half of the nation's more than 3,000 counties in 2014**

*The number of Latinos residing in counties with at least 1,000 Latinos*



Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of U.S. Census Bureau population estimates.  
"U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession"

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## Facts:

- 24% Floridan population is Latino.
- Share Hispanic population: 43.3% (43% Cubans, 9% Colombians, 9% Puerto Ricans).
- Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, 61% of 2.6 million Hispanics were foreign born in 2014.

# Miami-Dade: where Latinos meet...

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- Latinos in Miami have been more inclined to differentiating rather than assimilating.
- Miami Spanish and English are both characterized by clear generational differences and a strong sense of **bi-cultural** identity.
- Miami Latino speakers embraced both Spanish and English as social communication media, unlike California and Texas (politics).
- Newspapers and marketing companies have adapted their typographic and linguistic mechanisms to have a bigger impact.
- Non-standardized Hispanisms are used in the local press as most of them are recognized by Latino-origin readers.

# Methodology

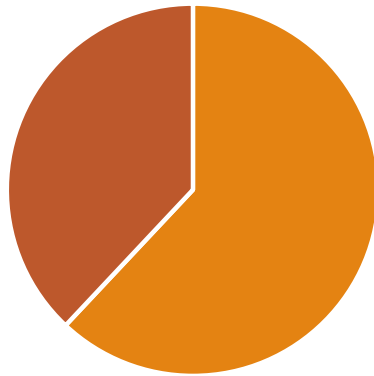
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- **Recopilation** of online local newsfeeds (*The Miami Herald*, *Miami New Times*, *Miami Today News*) written in English. Sections: Living, Entertainment, Leisure. (January-September, 2017; 146 articles; 480,368 words)
- **Extraction** of hispanisms and their collocates (336 tokens). Eponyms and toponyms are not taken into consideration.
- **Word tagging**: word class, borrowing typology, standardized vs non-standardized types, semantic fields, etc.

# Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings

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Hispanisms



- non-standardized hispanisms (62%)
- standardized hispanisms (38%)

## NSHs

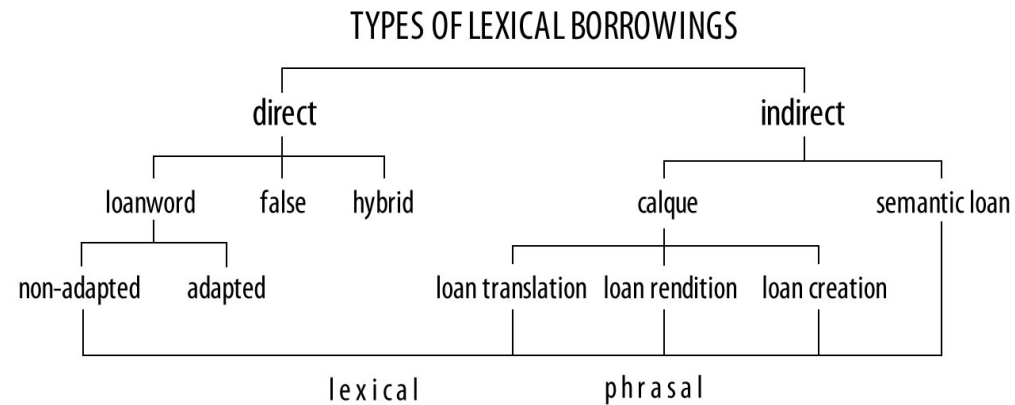
*ventanita*  
*arroz con pollo*  
*tiradito*  
*cajita*  
*moros*  
*empanada*

## SHs

*avocado*  
*oregano*  
*patio*  
*Latino*  
*plantain*  
*cilantro*



# Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings



Source: Furiassi et al. 2012

## Loan Words Typology (NSHs):

96.2 % (direct non-adapted)

*-croqueta, abuela, arepa*

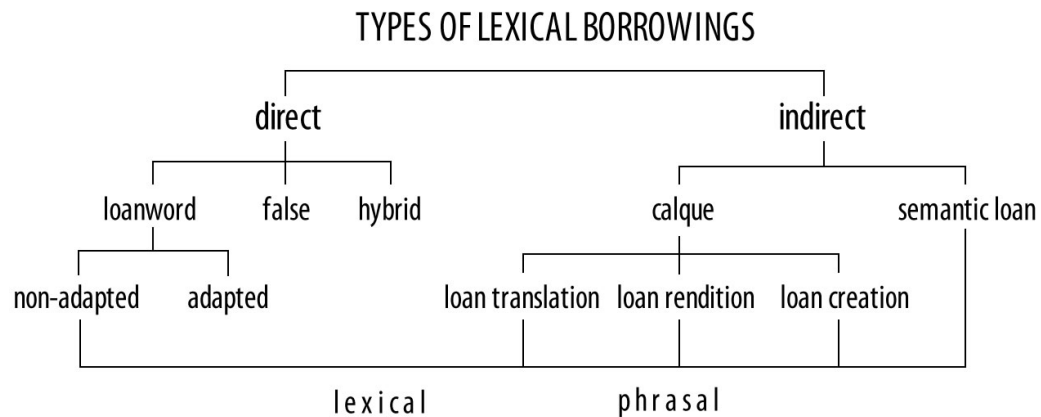
3 % (direct adapted)

*-tamale*

0.8 % (hybrid)

*-baja-panty, rapuela* (blend)

# Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings



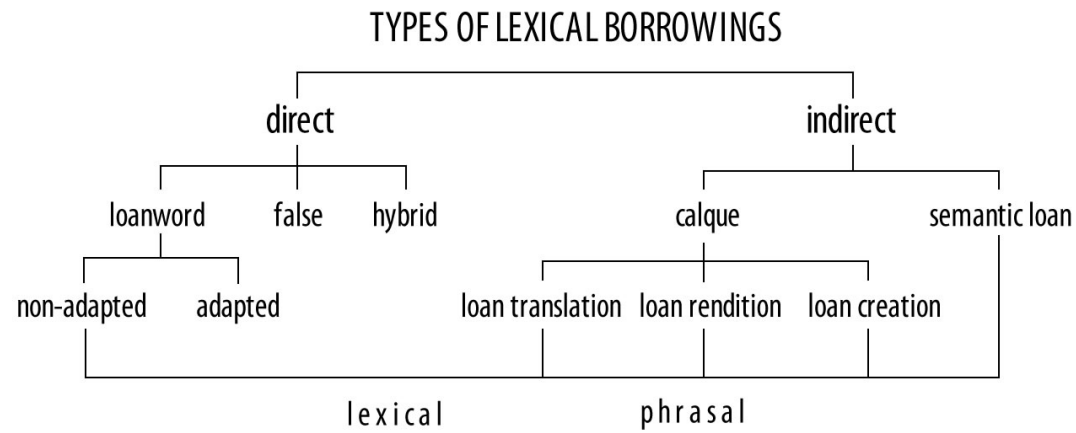
Source: Furiassi et al. 2014

## Loan Word Typology (SHs):

84 % (direct non-adapted)  
*-tapa, piñata, quinceañera*

16 % (direct adapted)  
*-doubloon, avocado, guava*

# Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings



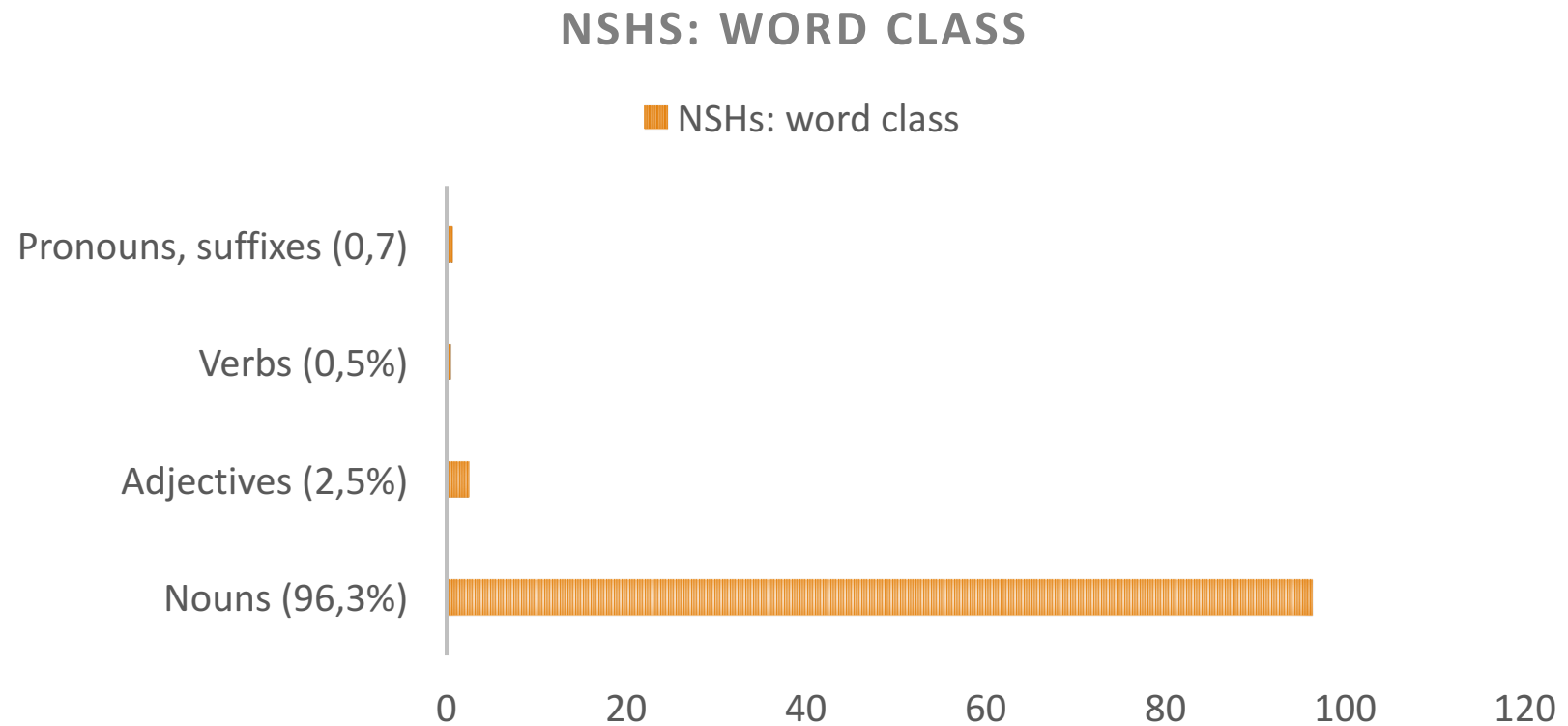
Source: Furiassi et al. 2012

## Calques & *Cubonics*

- *to crack the whip* 'to do a good job'
- *to sing the peanut's vendor* 'to die'

# Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings

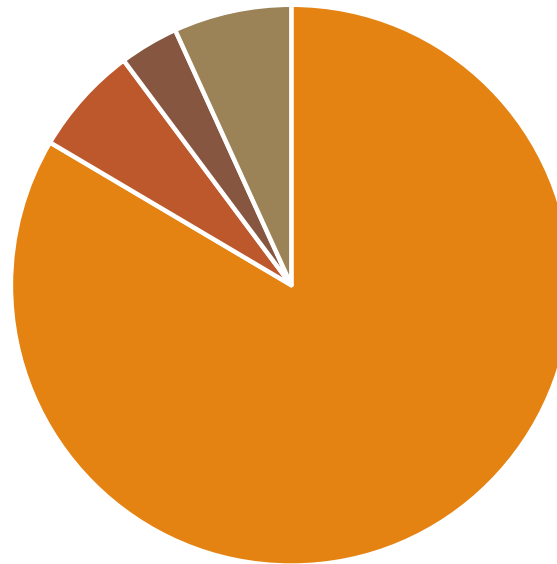
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# Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings

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Semantic Fields



■ Food and Drinks (83,5) ■ Entertainment (6,3%) ■ Travel (3,4%) ■ Living (6,8%)

# Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings

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## Pragmatic Variations:

- Most NSHs are culturally valuable as their referents exist in the target language (addition of pragmatic and cultural values):

*ventanita* 'pick-up counter'

*cajita* 'food box'

*abuela* 'grandmother'

*arepa* 'pancake'

Note SHs *medico* or *abogado* 'lawyer or counselor specialized in immigration issues'

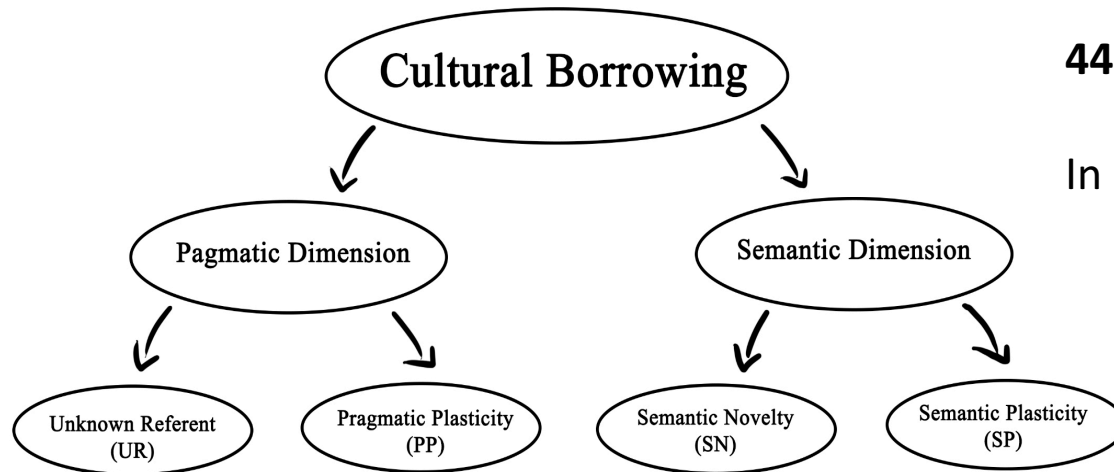
# Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings

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**Cultural Borrowing = Unknown Referent (UR) positive**

**44 %** of NSHs are cultural loans

In Cuban American Spanish (Miami): **14 %** cultural loans.



# Newspaper-based Corpora: Findings

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As to typography and font:

- **82 %** of NSHs are not typographically marked.
- **18 %** of NSHs are typographically marked (italics, inverted commas).
- **22 %** of NSHs are translated (or footnoted).

“Everyone today says bodega and they know what it means. At this point so much Spanish is vernacular, like barrio, dulce de leche, caliente. Bodega used to be italicized and now it never is ”  
(How Latino Culture is transforming the US, Cristina Benítez, 2007, p. 93)



# Conclusions

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- English is linguistically and culturally influenced by Spanish, particularly in bilingual and multicultural societies.
- Linguistically, the supremacy of non-adapted direct loan nouns is evident.
- A vast number of *hispanisms* are not necessarily standardized (62 %).
- A high number of cultural loans (UR-Positive) have been extracted.
- The corpus shows a group of ‘accepted’ borrowings in the English-speaking communities.
- Of the semantic fields studied, ‘food and drinks’ is evidently the field showing the highest number of NSHs.

# Recommended Studies

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- Treatment of *hispanisms* in a given periodical: contrast of semantic fields and genres (political analysis vs living & entertainment)
- The study of indirect borrowing, and eponyms/toponyms and their variability in American bilingual societies.
- Semantic evolution of SHs in multicultural press, and the quantification (corpus-based) of appearance.

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